



# NEWS RELEASE

Capt. Mike Petersen, Director of Public Affairs, Connecticut National Guard

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 17, 2015

## **REGIONAL NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS) PROGRAM BEING CONDUCTED AT CAMP NIANTIC**

NIANTIC, Conn. – Approximately 180 officer candidates from 16 states are enrolled in Phase One of Officer Candidate School and training at the Connecticut National Guard's 169th Regional Training Institute in Niantic.

The program is designed to assess the candidates' mettle to become commissioned officers at the end of a demanding 14-month development program. Phase One, a two-week program, tests the candidates' initial leadership abilities and proficiency on basic soldier skills such as land navigation, general military knowledge and squad and platoon tactics.

This is one of the largest OCS classes ever hosted by the Connecticut National Guard's Regional Training Institute.

**Media are invited to view candidates' early morning routine on Wednesday, July 22 beginning at 5:15 a.m. Activities will include:**

5:15 – 6:15 a.m.: Physical Fitness Training

6:15 – 7:00 a.m.: Uniform change/personal preparation (opportunity for cadre interviews)

7:00 – 7:30 a.m.: "Lines of Knowledge," where candidates will be tested on general military knowledge and class content while waiting in line for breakfast

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.: Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills training, where candidates are tested on military tactics and techniques at the squad and platoon levels

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.: Retreat ceremony, where candidates will practice drill and ceremony

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**Media will not be allowed on Camp Niantic without prior coordination. Those interested in attending must notify Capt. Mike Petersen in advance in order to gain access to Camp Niantic. Those who do not coordinate will be turned away for security purposes. Capt. Petersen can be reached at 860-524-4857 or at [michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.t.petersen.mil@mail.mil).**

**Directions to Camp Niantic (38 Smith Street, Niantic, Conn):** Exit 74 off I-95 North-South. Take a right at the end of the ramp onto Route 161. Continue on Rt. 161 and take a left on Smith Street. Camp Niantic will be on your left. A gate guard will ask you for ID, and you require a credential for access. Coordinate with Capt. Mike Petersen in advance.

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